



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1995

No. 193

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, take charge of the control center of our brains. Think Your thoughts through us and send to our nervous systems the pure signals of Your peace, power, and patience. Give us minds responsive to Your guidance.

Take charge of our tongues so that we may speak truth with clarity, without rancor and anger. May our debates be an effort to reach agreement rather than simply to win an argument. Help us to think of each other as fellow Americans seeking Your best for our Nation, rather than enemy parties seeking to defeat each other. Make us channels of Your grace to others. May we respond to Your nudges to communicate affirmation and encouragement.

May we all march to the cadences of the same Drummer. Help us to catch the drumbeat of Your guidance. Here are our lives. Invade them with Your calming spirit, strengthen them with Your powerful presence, and imbue them with Your gift of faith to trust You to bring unity in our diversity. In our Lord's name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator DOLE, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, in a few moments, I will make a motion to proceed to the consideration of calendar No. 195, Senate Joint Resolution 31, regarding a constitutional amendment prohibiting the desecration of the flag.

By a previous order, at 5 o'clock today, we will resume consideration of H.R. 1833 regarding partial-birth abortions and the pending amendments thereto. I assume we will have rollcall votes throughout today's session in regard to either of these matters.

Just for the information of my colleagues, on the tentative schedule, we would like to finish the constitutional amendment on flags and complete action on the partial-birth abortions bill and consider any available appropriations conference reports between now and sometime on Friday.

Next week, the State Department reorganization bill will come to the floor, S. 1441, unless we reach some agreement prior to that time. We have been trying to reach an agreement here for several weeks, and we have had no success. I think the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator HELMS, has been very patient, and I am determined to bring the bill up again. If we cannot get the votes, we cannot get the votes. So we will start that up on Monday.

In addition, next week we will have available appropriations conference reports. We hope to have a welfare reform conference report. We also will take up H.R. 660, the fair housing exemption bill. There will be a short time agreement.

Next week, we will bring up the resolution on Bosnia, and I hope we might complete that under some time agreement. But that should come next week. We are still working on the language, as we have indicated in the last couple of days. That language has now been, I think, submitted to a number of our colleagues. We hope we can reach some agreement. We do not expect everybody to support the resolution. Some people have different views and different motives, but we hope that we can pass a resolution that indicates our strong support for United States forces, notwithstanding our strong disagreement

with the President's Bosnian policy, which we have said from day one, the past 30 months, it has been bipartisan—we voted time and again to lift the arms embargo, to give the Bosnians a chance to defend themselves. Had we done that, we would not be talking about sending 20,000 American troops to Bosnia. The President has repeatedly rejected the bipartisan view of the House and the Senate, and he has indicated that troops will go notwithstanding any opposition from Congress.

I hope we can work out some resolution that would support the forces and let him proceed with his commitment, even though we may not share his view on either the agreement in Dayton or the Bosnia policy.

One thing we hope to achieve is an exit strategy. It is our view that unless we have some exit strategy, we are not certain how long American Forces and other forces might be there. We believe it is very important that the Bosnians be armed and trained so that in 6 months, 8 months, or a year, we will be able to leave that part of the world and come back and bring our forces back to America, and the Bosnians will be in a position to defend themselves. It sort of all gets back to what we have been talking about in the last couple of years. We should have lifted the arms embargo in the first place. They would be in a position today to defend themselves, and we may not be asking Americans to make these sacrifices. That will come up sometime next week.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 31

Mr. DOLE. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate turn to the consideration of calendar 195, Senate Joint Resolution 31, proposing a constitutional amendment regarding the desecration of the flag of the United States.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper containing 100% post consumer waste

S 18037